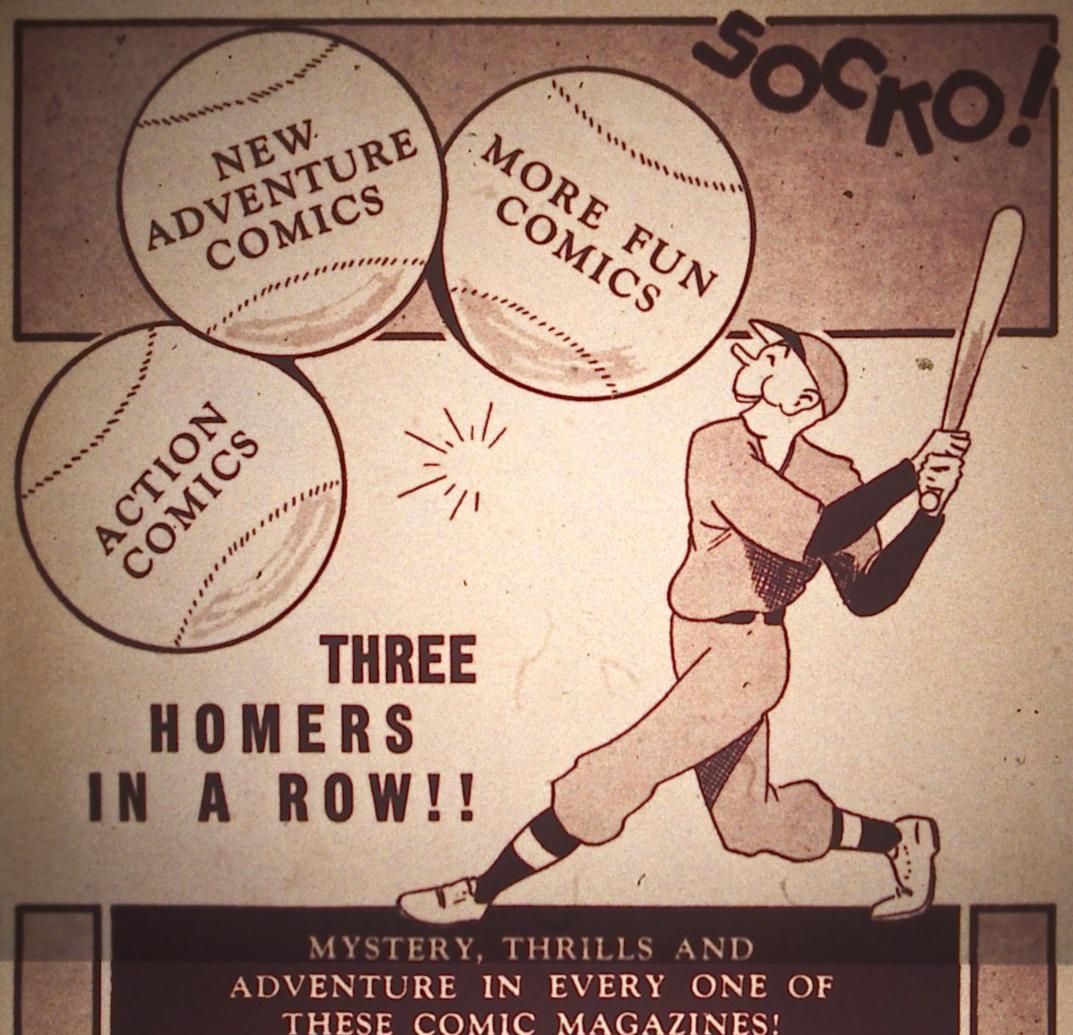
No. 18 • Sixty Four Pages • August, 1938

# Defective COMICS





THESE COMIC MAGAZINES! 10¢ AT ALL NEWSSTANDS!

#### DETECTIVE COMICS

#### VINCENT A. SULLIVAN

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## SPEED SAUNERS



# AND THE HILTON DIAMOND

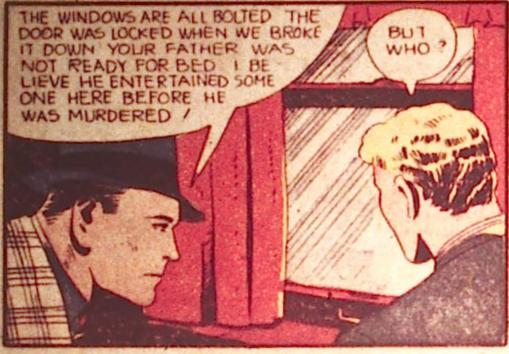
BY FRED GUARDINEER



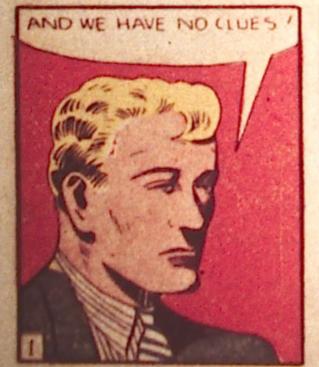


WHY I'M SUSPICIOUS YOUR FATHER, JIM, WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST DIAMOND MERCHANT'S IN THE COUNTRY I THINK HE MAY HAVE COME ACROSS SOMETHING TOO BIG AND DANGEROUS, EVEN FOR HIM —















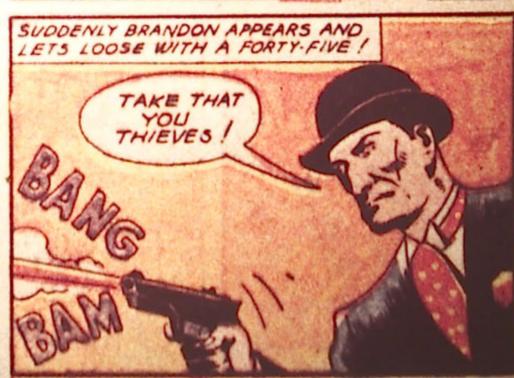




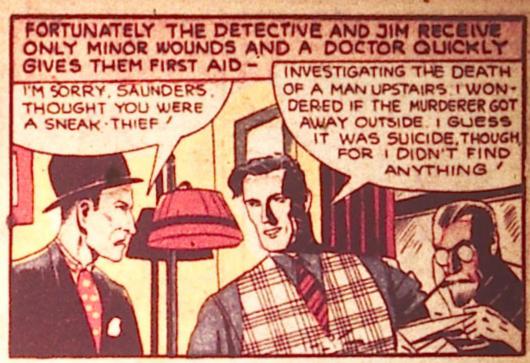


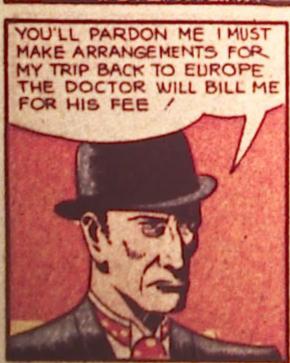












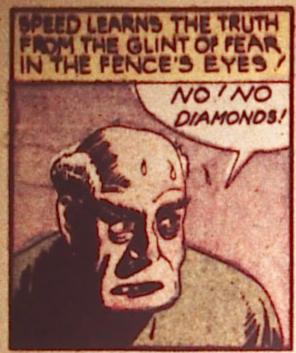


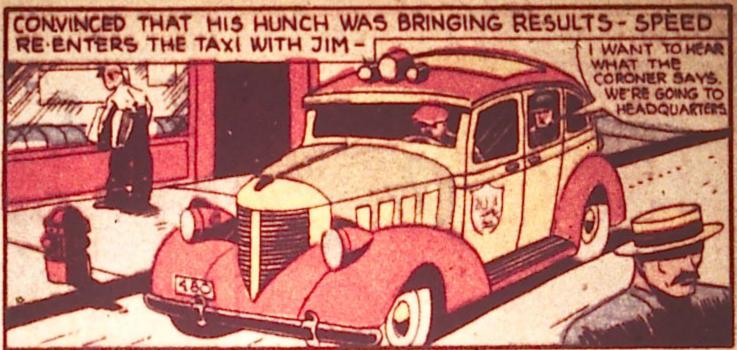




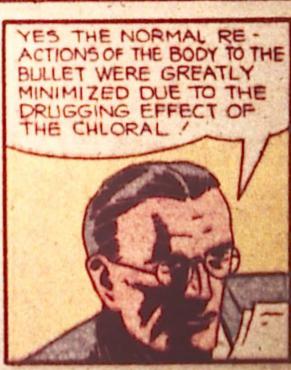














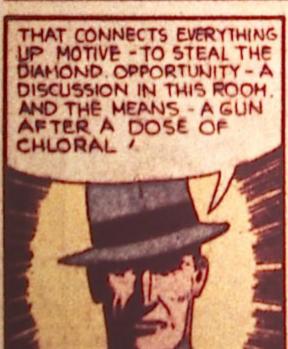
























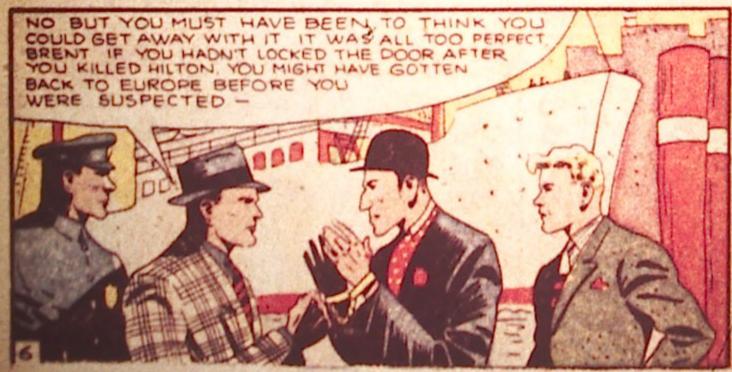






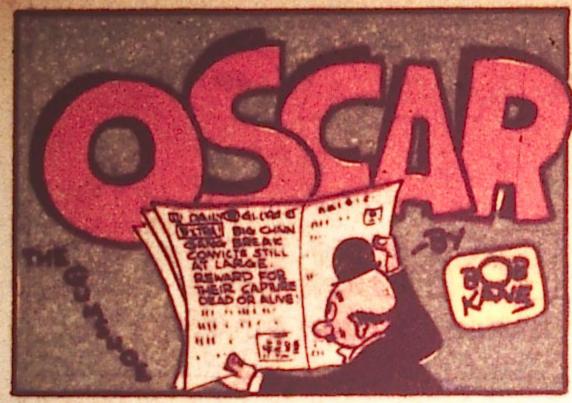




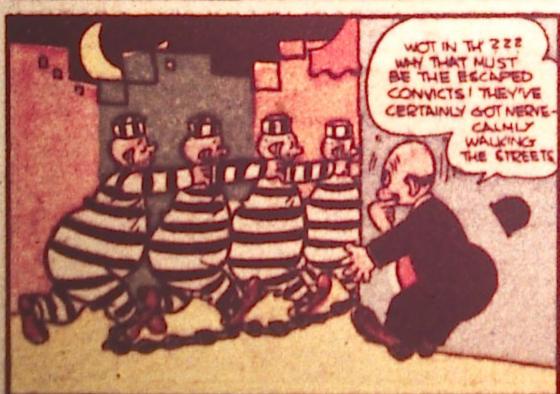


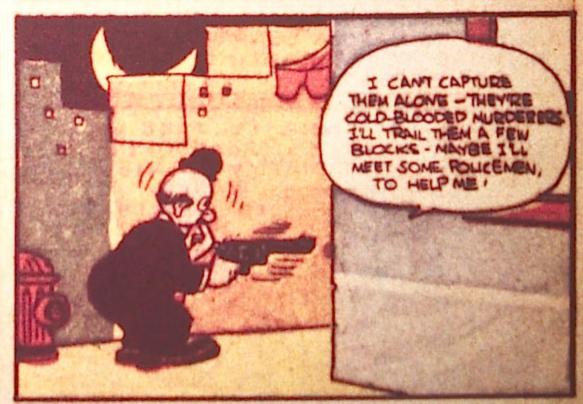
BUT HILTON HAD TOLD HIS SON TO COME UP AND WALK IN WITHOUT KNOCKING IN THAT CASE HE WOULDN'T HAVE LOCKED THE DOOR TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE!





















### COSMO, THE PHANTOM OF DISGUISE

. . ILLUSTRATED BY SVEN ELVEN . .

COSMO, FEELING THE NEED OF A VACATION DECIDES TO MAKE A SURPRISE VISIT TO THE HUGE TEXAS RANCH OF HIS FRIEND, SHERIFF HARVEY.



AT RED GULCH HE PURCHASES A HORSE AND DONS COWBOY CLOTHES FOR THE LONG, DUSTY RIDE TO THE RANCH.



TOWARD EVENING HE SIGHTS THE LOW, RAMBLING BUILDINGS OF THE RANCH .



BOARDING A TRAIN IN CHICAGO COSMO HEADS FOR THEILONE STAR STATE .



RIDING OUT IN THE MORNING SUNLIGHT THE SILENT OPEN SPACES GLEAM IN WEL-COME TO THE CITY MAN.

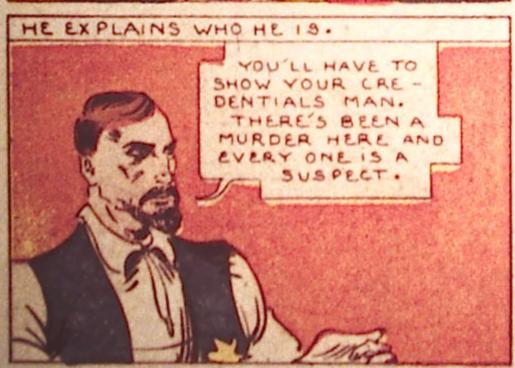


THE YARD IS ASTIR WITH ACTIVITY .
TWO ARMED MEN ACCOST COSMO .

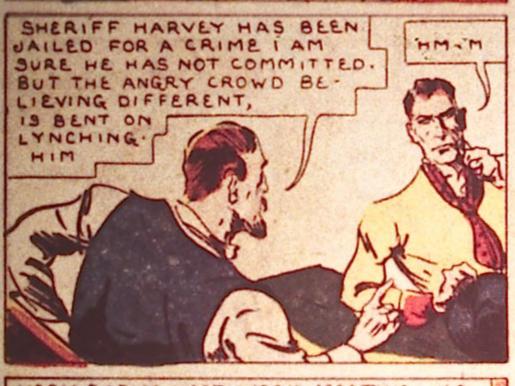




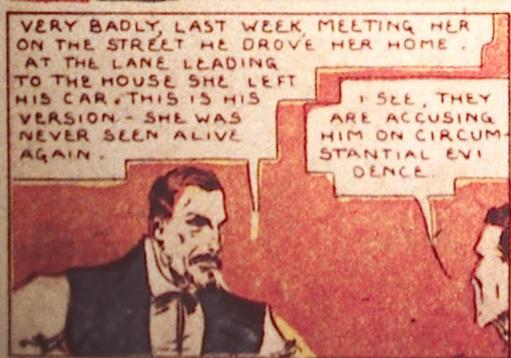








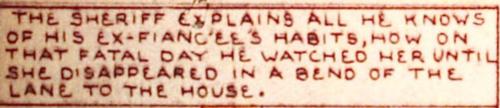




















EVERYONE IS TALKING OF THE MURDER AND FEELING IS RUNNING HIGH AGAINST THE SHERIFF.



GES A SULLEN MEXICAN IN CONVERSATION.



COSMO TREATS THE MAN AGAIN AND A-GAIN, AT LAST HE BABBLES SOMETHING INCOHERENTLY.





OH, SO YOU DID
DO IT! WHY?

I-I LOVE HER,
SHE LAUGH AT
ME. I-I GET MAD
AND CHOKE HER.
SHE DIE. I BURN
HER SO NOBODY
WILL KNOW.





BARKEEPER SUBDUE THE RAVING LUNATIC AND LOCK HIM IN A ROOM.



DASHING BACK TO THE RANCH COSMO



COLORED COOK WEEPING LOUDLY.









IN THE DISTANCE HE SEES THE MOB



THEY STOP AT A BIG OAK; A ROPE IS PLACED AROUND THE SHERIFF'S NECK .
THE MOB IS IN A FRENZY.



A HORSE IS HITCHED TO THE OTHER END



A LOUD REPORT BREAKS THE TENSE

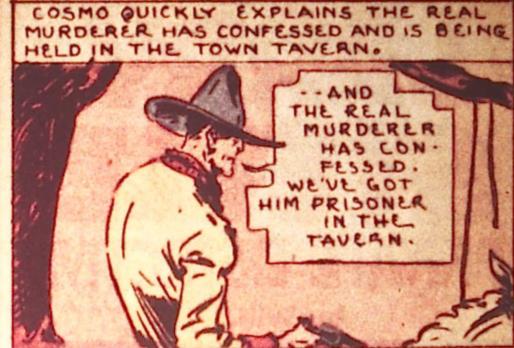


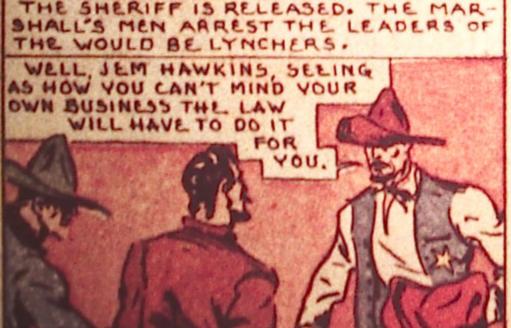
THE ROPE SNAPS WHERE COSMO'S BUL-













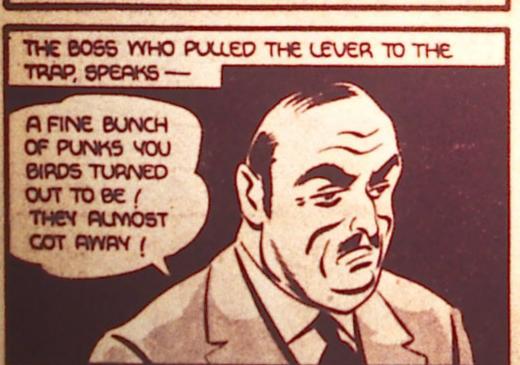






## LARRY STEELE PRIVATE DETECTIVE by WILLER

WOOD PRODUCER, ARE VISITING A DESERTED OUD CASTLE ON THE COAST OF MAINE
WHEN THEY ARE CAPTURED BY THE HIDNAPPERS OF VERA SANDERS, WHO IS BEING HELD THERE - THE THREE MAKE A
BREAK FOR FREEDOM, BUT ARE TRICHED
BY A SECRET TRAP DOOR, WHICH THEY
FALL THROUGH AND ARE AGAIN PRISONERS AT THE MERCY OF THE THREE HIDNAPPERS ---





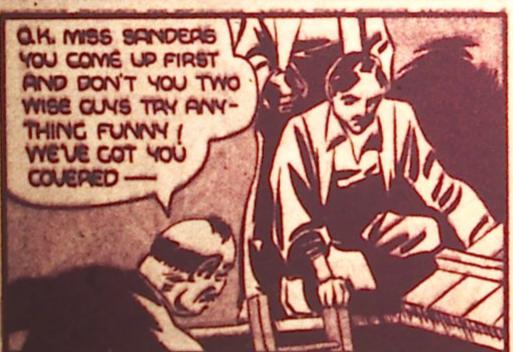










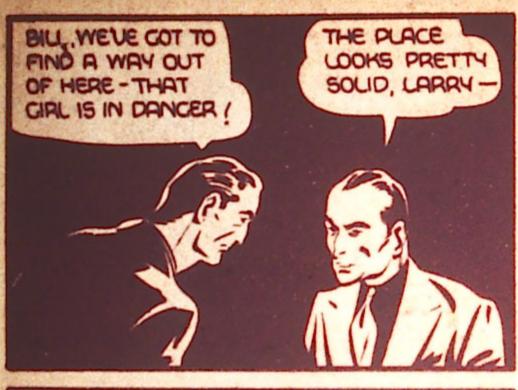




















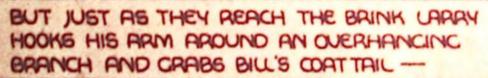




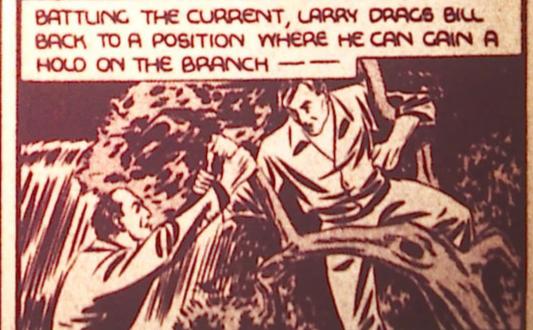






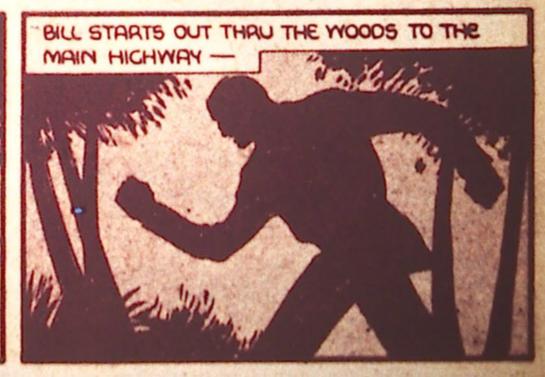




























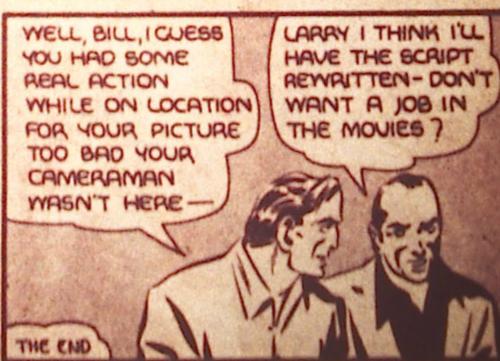












The adventurous story of that sinister character of the Orient.

DOCTOR
FU MANCHU!

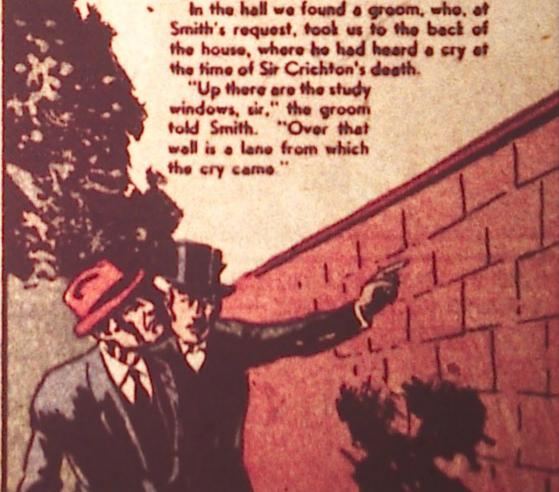
by
The Celebrated
English 'Author

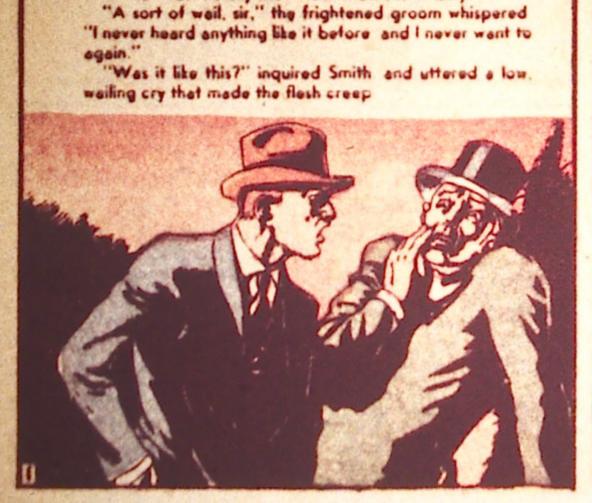
SAX ROHMER

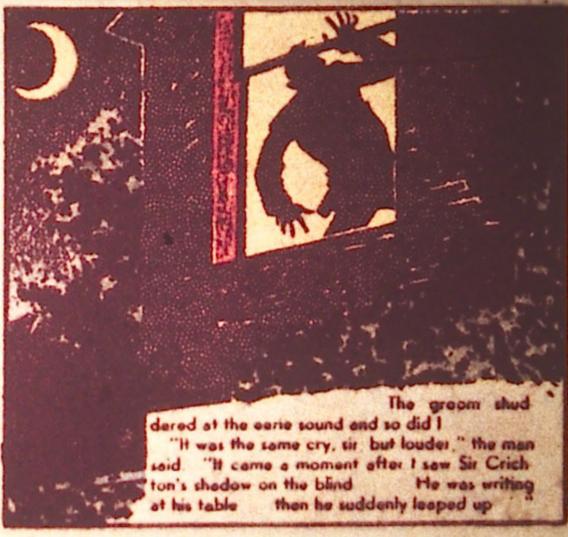


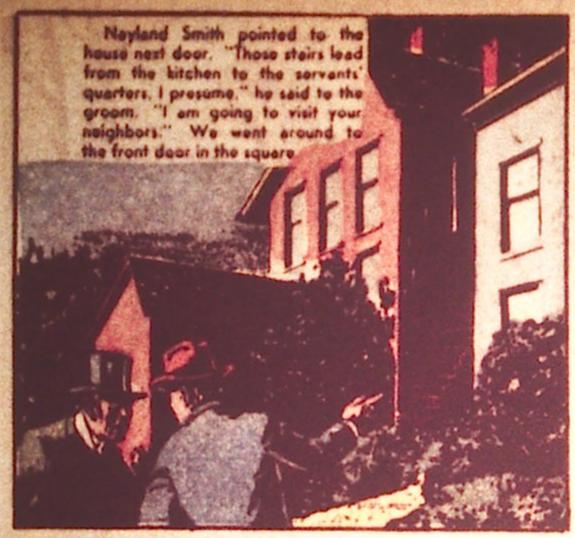


"What was the cry like?" Smith asked, to sely.

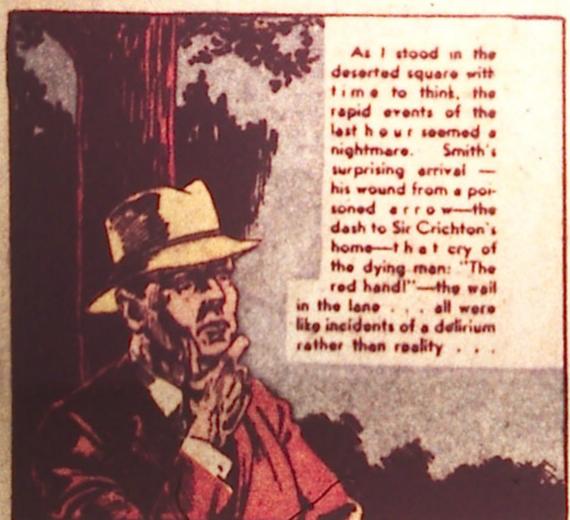




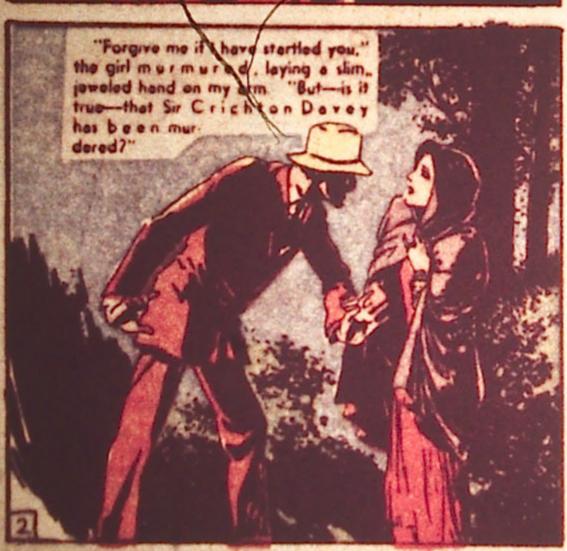












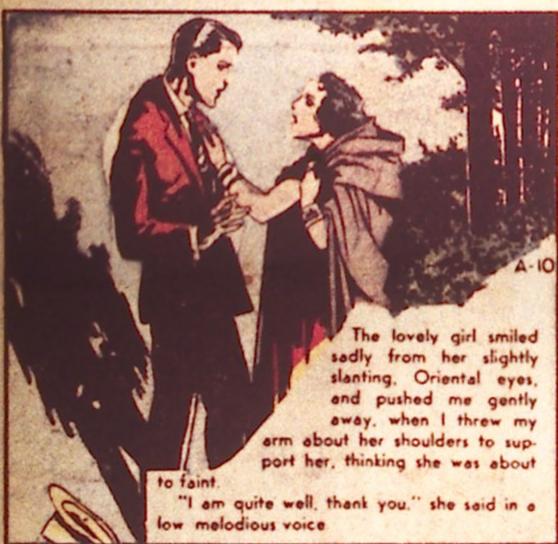


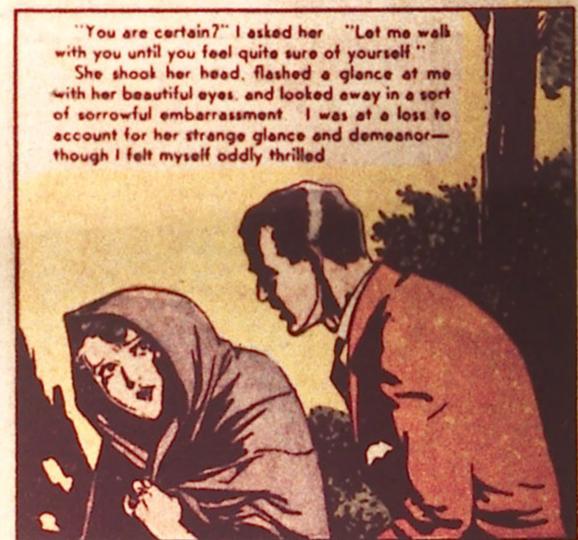
her hips due to art, their tiss would leave just such a mark as

I had seen upon the dead man's hand!





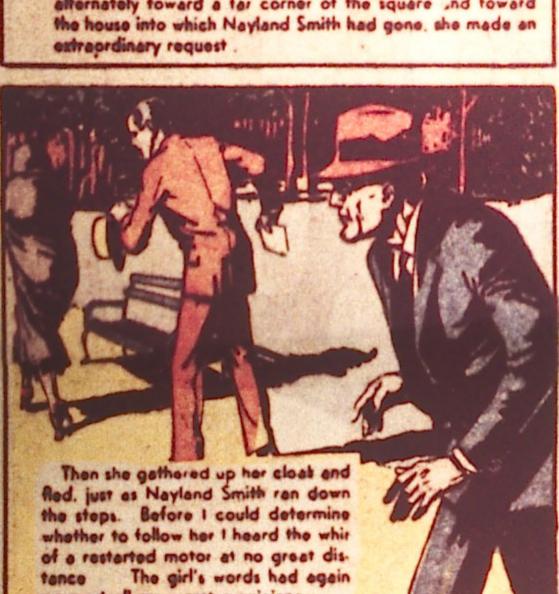














"If you would do me a very great personal service, for

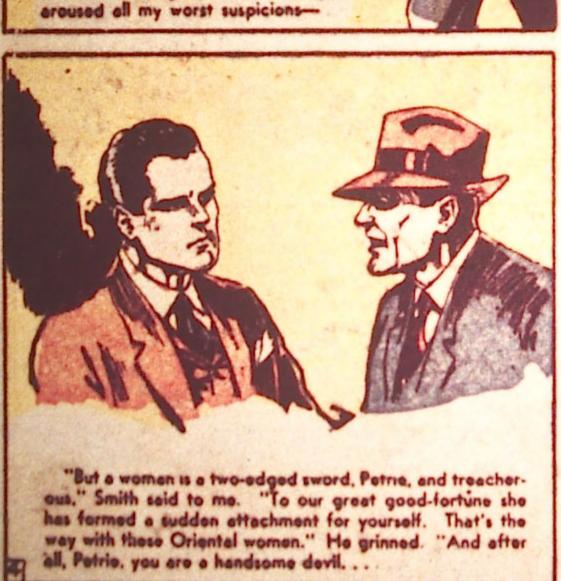
which I always would be grateful." she murmured haltingly,

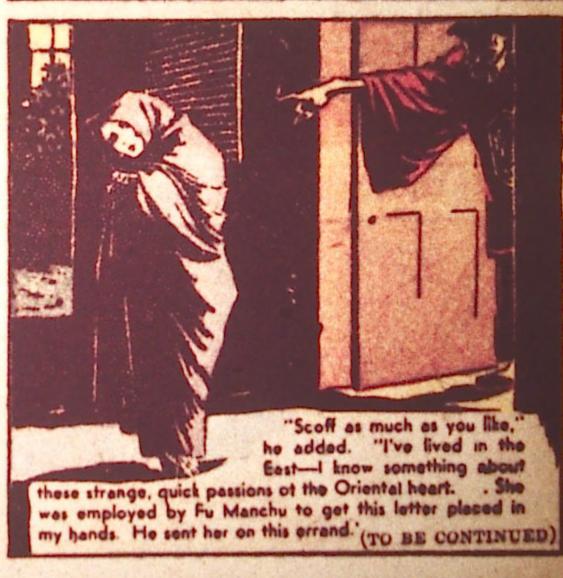
"when you have given my message to the proper person.

She gazed straight into my eyes with passionate intent-

leave him, and do not go near him any more tonight!"

MOSS . .





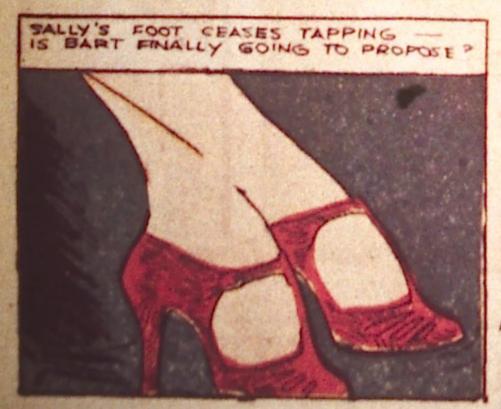


NOT HAVING BEEN GIVEN AN ASSIGNMENT IN WEEKS, SALLY AND BART TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A NUMBER OF THEATRES AND PARTIES. — SENSING AN UNUSUAL TENDERNESS IN BARTS MANNER, SALLY IS READY FOR ANYTHING!





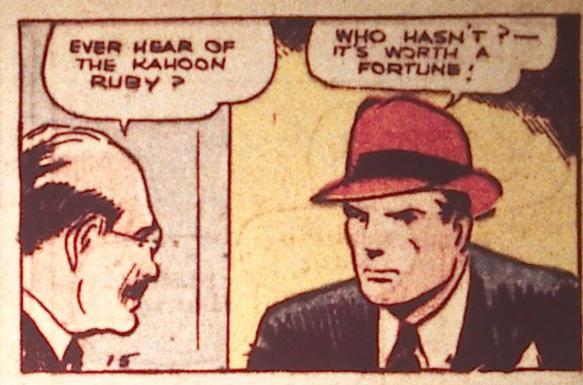






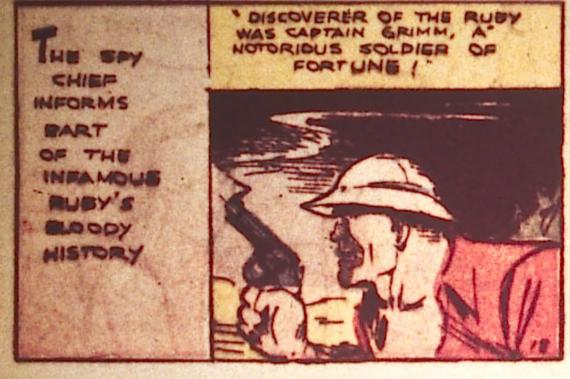












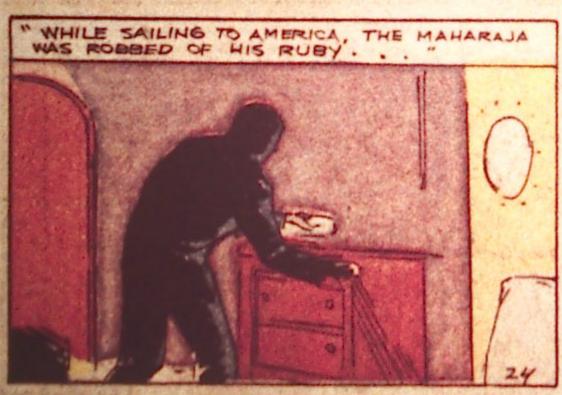


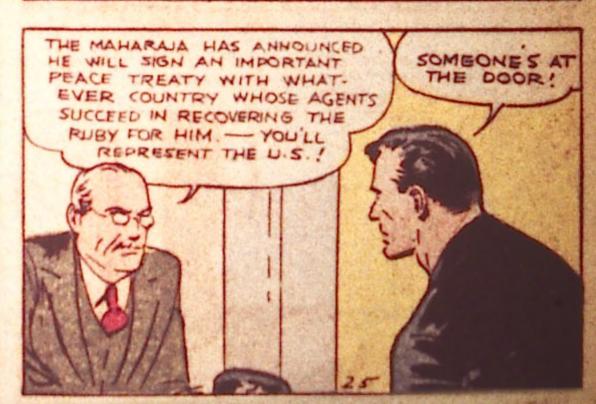
































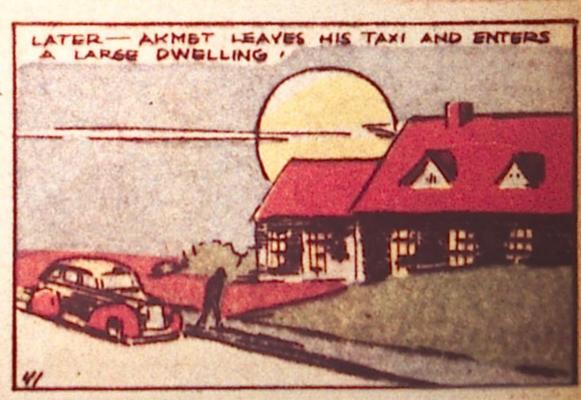




















































bow rang loudly and with a groan of annoyance, the detective threw down the sporting page of the daily newspaper and lifted the receiver.

"Is this the Detective Bureau of the Police Department?" a man's voice inquired.

"That's correct," Lawton re-

plied.

"I'm rather unfamiliar with regulations and things of that sort," the man on the wire stated, "but I wish to report a robbery. This is a Mr. Henry Burroughs speaking!"

"Henry Burroughs, the finan-

cier?" asked Lawton.

"I am in the banking business,"
Burroughs replied. "You may
have read that a hobby of mine
is art collecting and that is the
reason for my calling. One of my
valuable paintings has been
stolen."

"I'll be over immediately, sir This is Detective Lawton speak-

ing."

Twenty minutes later Lawton alighted from a cab and pressed the doorbell of the Burroughs' mansion. A stiff faced butler admitted him and escorted him to the library. Henry Burroughs, stout and florid, sat behind a large oak desk in a corner of the spacious room; he arose immediately and extended his hand in greeting to the detective.

"Detective Lawton, I presume?"

the millionaire said.

"That's right, Mr. Burroughs," smiled Lawton. "And now what seems to be the trouble?" "First come with me and I will show you the result of the thief's work," suggested Burroughs, "and then I'll explain everything I know pertaining to this rather mystifying incident."

The financier lead the way down a long corridor to a vast room at the far end. Paintings and various works of art of many sizes and descriptions filled the walls and interior. Across the room was an entrance opening into another but somewhat smaller gallery.

"This is the hobby I spoke about," Burroughs said. "It's expensive but it affords me a great

deal of pleasure."

"It looks like a duplicate of a museum," replied Lawton admir-

ingly.

The millionaire walked over to the wall on the right and pointed with his finger. "And there, Mr.



Lawton, is where the missing painting hung. The value of it is close to \$10,000 and the unfortunate thing is that it was one of the few pieces of art that I hadn't taken the precaution to insure."

The detective gazed at the empty frame. The thief had been most exacting and careful for it was obvious that the painting had been cut discreetly with some finely

sharpened instrument.

"About when did this happen?"

asked Lawton.

"Not more than three or four hours ago," Burroughs replied, "Early this afternoon I had a private showing of my collection for some twenty art fanciers and collectors. Only those were admitted who had the written invitations I mailed out several days ago, so logically it would seem that the thief must have been among those present."

"Wouldn't it have been rather difficult for the person to steal the painting with so many others in the room?" questioned the detec-

tive.

"Possibly. But I do recall that we spent a great deal of time in the smaller gallery and in all probability the thief took that opportunity to complete his task."

Lawton dusted the frame with fingerprint powder but the thief had been clever enough not to

leave any telltale marks.

"I didn't think whoever took the painting would slip up that way, Mr. Lawton, but here's something I found soon after the party had left and immediately after I discovered my loss."

LIRROUGHS dug in his pocket and produced a small key. He handed it over to Lawton who scrutinized it most carefully, turning it over several times in the palm of his hand.

"This key is made of gold!" the detective exclaimed. "However, there are no initials on it."

"I may be wrong but I believe whoever owns that key is, in some way, responsible for the theft of the painting," said Burroughs. "You see, I discovered the key dangling from a corner of the picture frame when I returned after my guests had departed."

that the owner of the key is the man we want!" the detective an-

swered.

They locked the gallery door behind them and walked back to the millionaire's library. Lawton requested a list of the persons who had attended the private showing.

"I suggest you send each of these men a note stating that you have found a valuable piece of jewelry evidently dropped when they attended your private display of paintings, and ask the owner to call for it tomorrow evening." Lawton lit a cigarette. "If I'm not mistaken we'll soon have our culprit and I'll bet a week's salary that he's red-headed!"

Burroughs was puzzled. "I don't recall any red-headed person being among those who were here to-day! You must be mistaken Mr. Lawton."

"We'll see!" said the detective, smiling.

The following evening Lawton called again at the Burrough's mansion. The millionaire was having coffee in the library, waiting for him.

"Any calls yet?" asked the detective.

"Not a one," replied Burroughs.

"Perhaps our suspect has detected a trap."

At that moment the hall bell rang and presently the butler appeared in the doorway: "A Mr. Arnold Lansing is calling, sir."

"Show him in, Stephens," said

Burroughs.

Arnold Lansing stepped across the threshold and into the room. He was thin, average height and carried a thick and heavy-looking cane in his right hand; a faint, halting limp was obviously the reason for the stick.

Burroughs stepped to him and shook hands. "I'm happy to see you again, Mr. Lansing. Won't you sit down?"

The visitor accepted the invitation and sank into a lounge chair. "I became quite worried when I arrived home at my apartment last evening and discovered that my key was missing. I think more of it for sentimental reasons than for its actual value."

"I can appreciate that, Mr. Lansing," said Burroughs; then, as if remembering something, he added, "by the way, I don't believe "Mr. Burroughs, permit me to introduce you to Arnold Lansing alias 'Scarlet' Sorenson, international and illegal collector of fine arts." Lawton picked up the hand-cuffed man's walking stick. "And here we see the very clever method Mr. Sorenson employed in taking the stolen painting from the building without being caught!"

The detective grasped the silver top of the cane and started unscrewing it. The knob finally came off, showing the interior of the

stick to be hollow.

"Quite a novel thing," said Burroughs, "but tell me, Lawton, what made you say that the culprit was red-headed what made you so sure?"



I've introduced you to Mr. Law-ton."

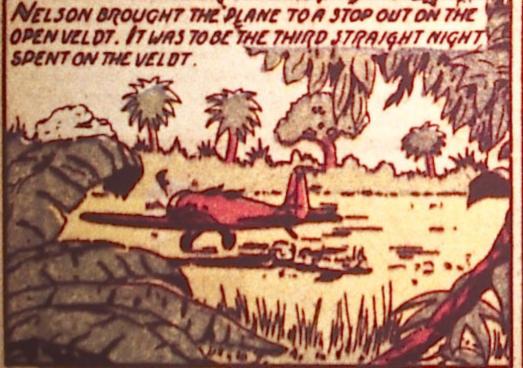
Lawton walked over to Lansing and the latter extended his hand. The detective reached out and swiftly snapped a pair of handcuffs on the other's wrists.

"W-what is the meaning of this of all the outrageous" Lansing spluttered and the color drained out of his face.

"Take it easy now," cautioned Lawton. He placed his hand on Lansing's head and pulled off a wig, revealing a crop of flaming red hair! "That's very simple," replied Lawton. "Only last week we received a description of Sorenson from the London police, informing us that he had sailed for America. And then I remembered reading an article about him barely escaping the law over there in almost the selfsame way by dropping his gold key! However, this time he wasn't so fortunate and his key will probably be the one thing that will lock him in a cell for quite a long period of time!"

THE END



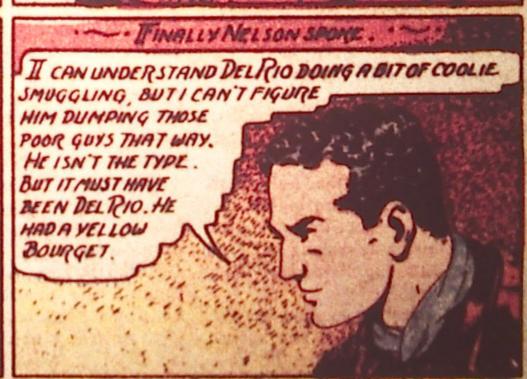








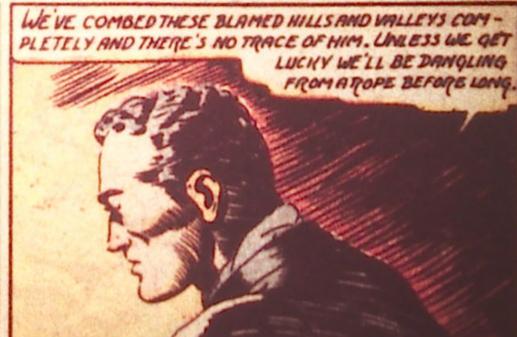
















FOR TWO HOURS THE NEXT MORNING NELSON AND UNGIFLEW OVER THE JUNGLE ON THE PORTUGOESE SIDE OF THE BORDER.

NELSON GLANCED AT THE GAS GAUGE AGAIN. HIS JAM

THEIR GAS WAS RUNWING LOW, AND THERE STILL WASN'T AND SIGN OF THE SMUGGLERS HIDEOUT.

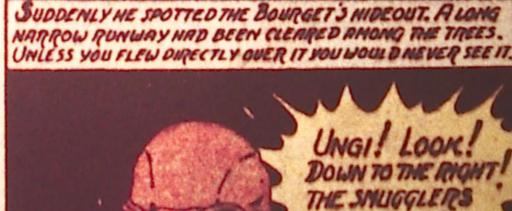




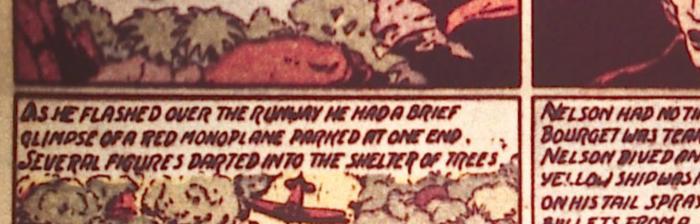








HIDEOUT !

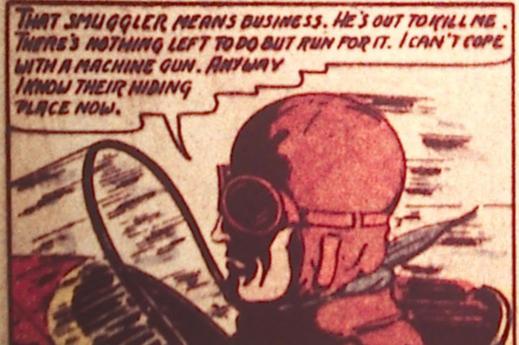






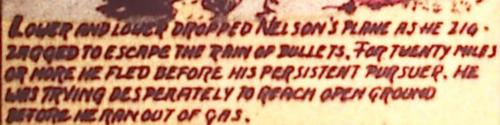










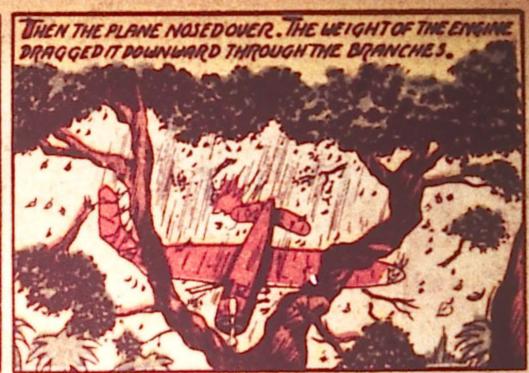










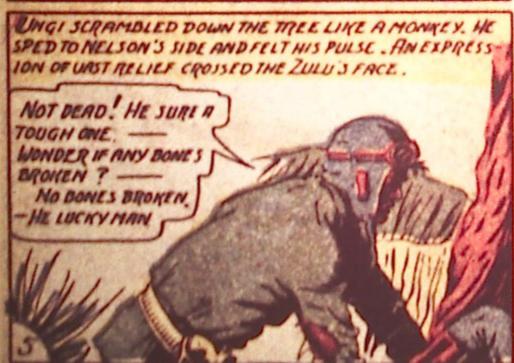


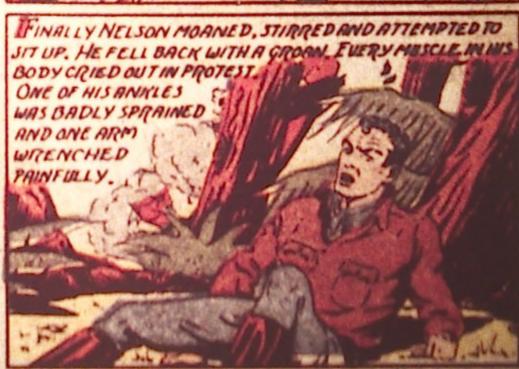










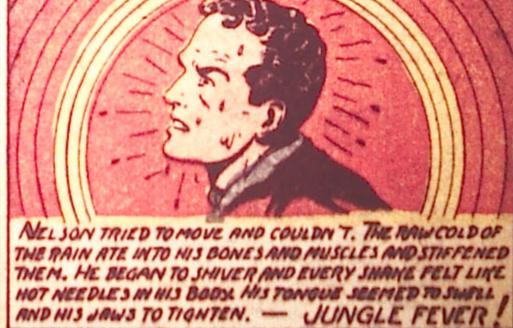






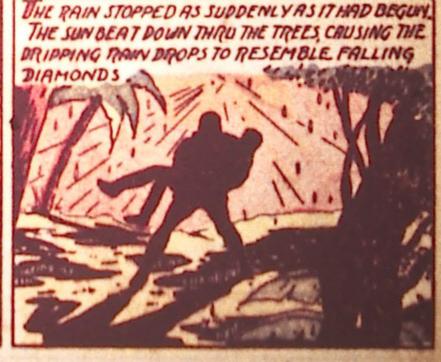


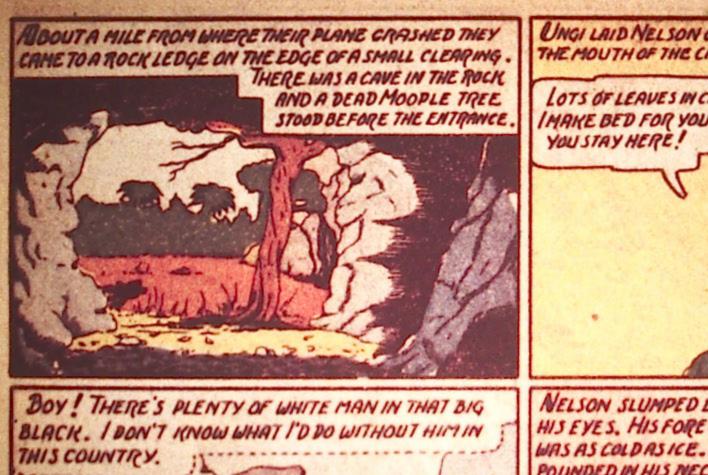
SOON NELSON WAS LYING IN A MINIATURE POND.





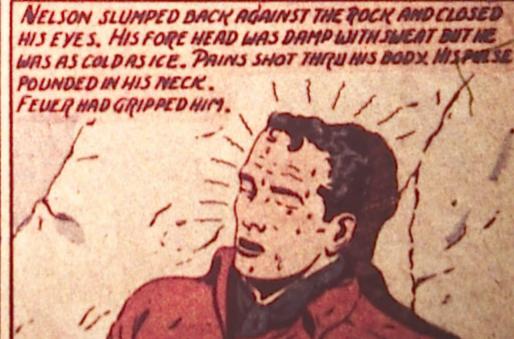






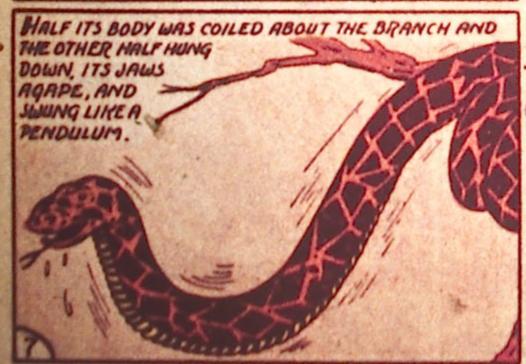






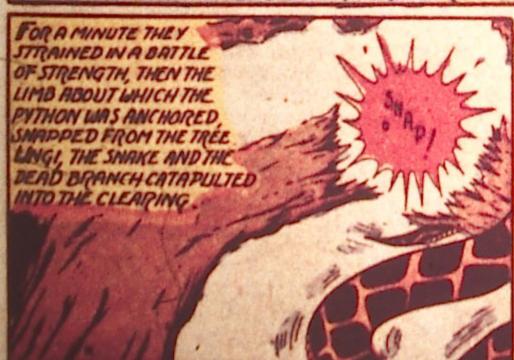










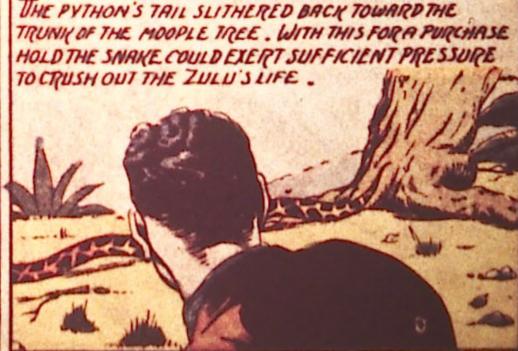


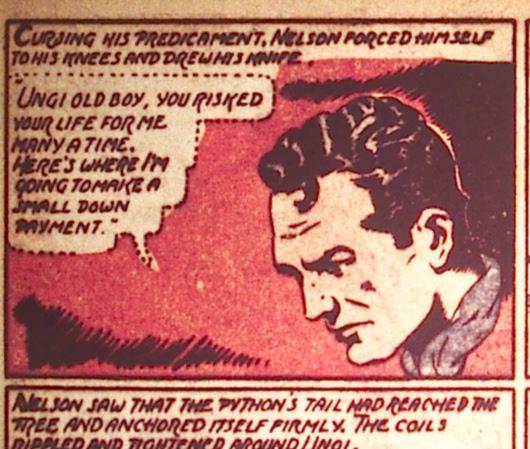






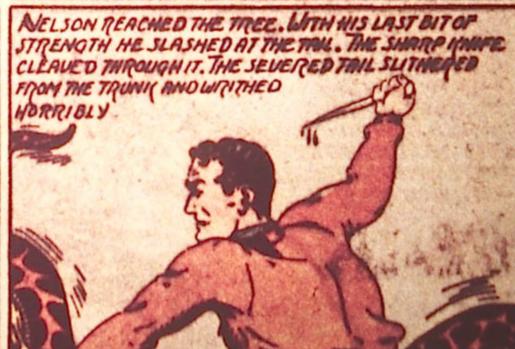


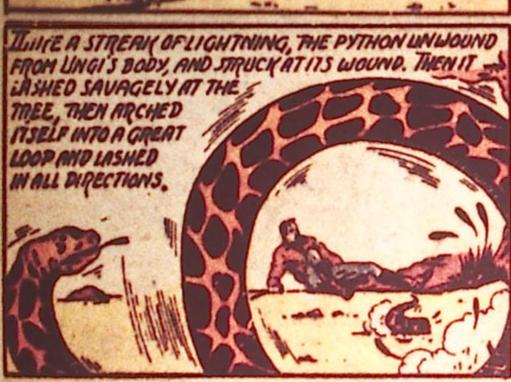


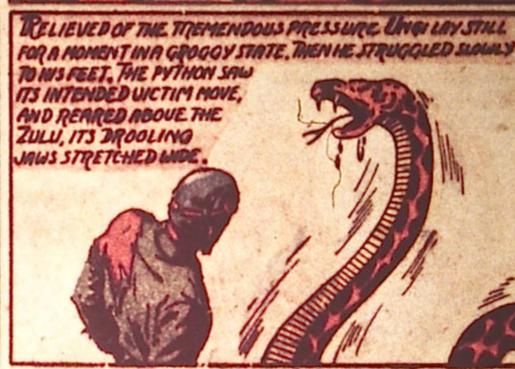


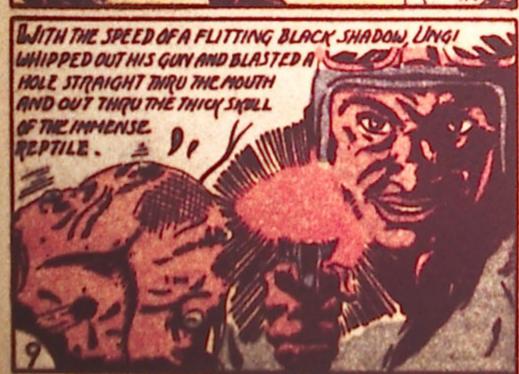


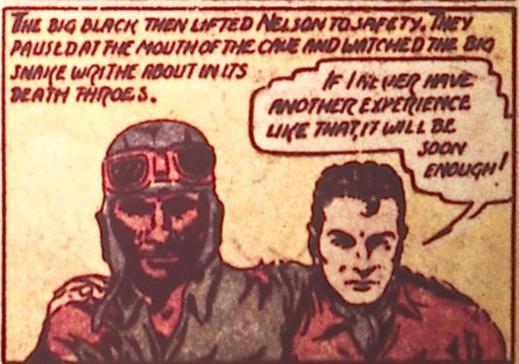




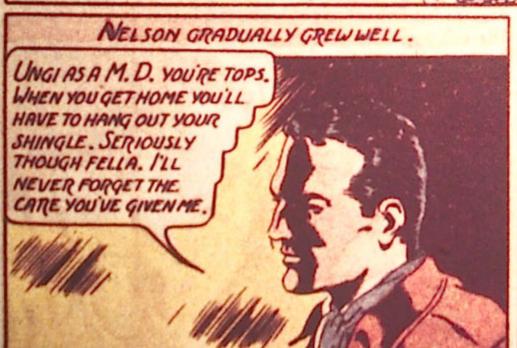














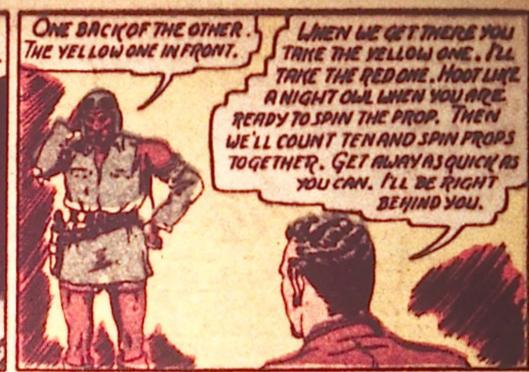








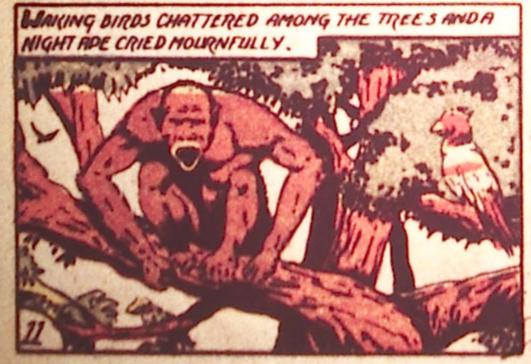


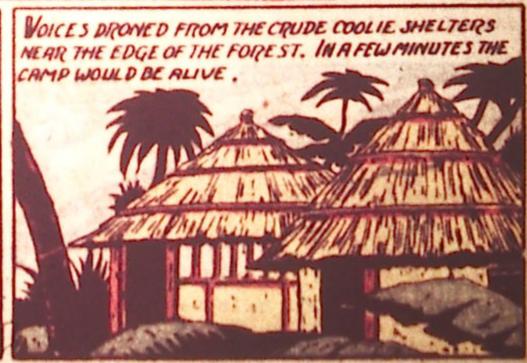


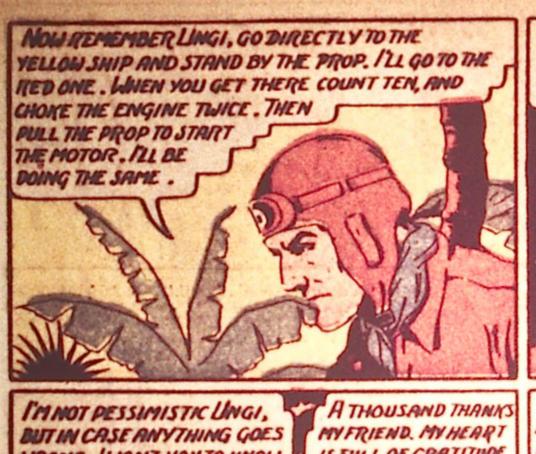






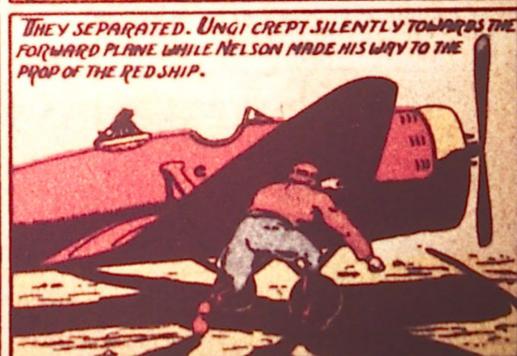




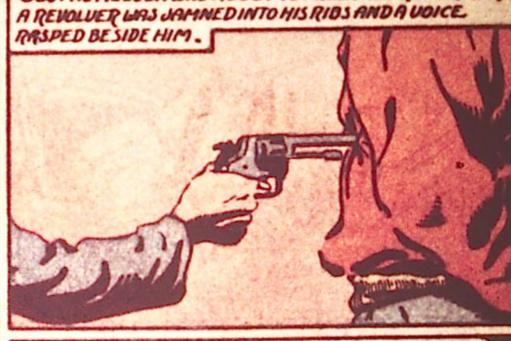












JUST AS NELSON WAS ABOUT TO PULL THE PROPAGAIN,







STEVE MALONE, BRILLIANT YOUNG CRIMINAL LAWYER , PAUSES OUTSIDE THE OPERA HOUSE TO ENJOY A CIGARETTE.







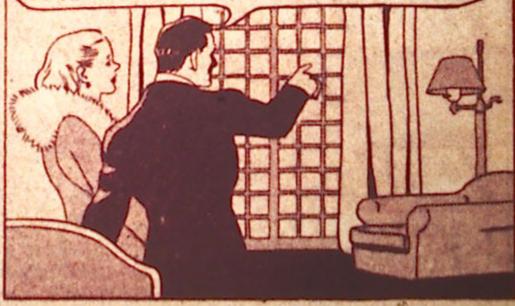
NO, NO! YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
IT IS NOT A CASE FOR THE
POLICE UNTIL WE CAN CONFRONT
THE GUILTY WITH ALL THE
EVIDENCE, THEY ARE A VERY
POWERFUL GROUP, THE MEN
WHO KILLED MY HUSBAND.
WE MUST PROCEED VERY
SECRETLY!





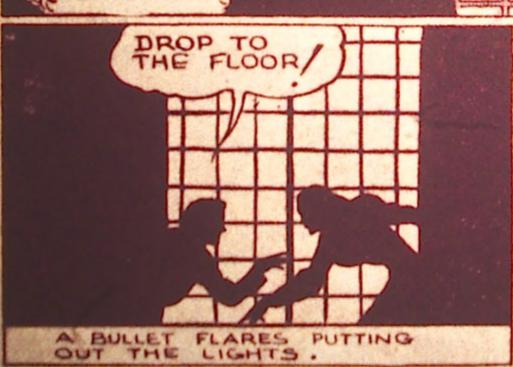
FIRST SEES THE BODY OF THE

THE SHOT CAME FROM THERE . THE WINDOWS ARE CLOSED THOUGH, AND NO BULLET HOLE APPEARS.













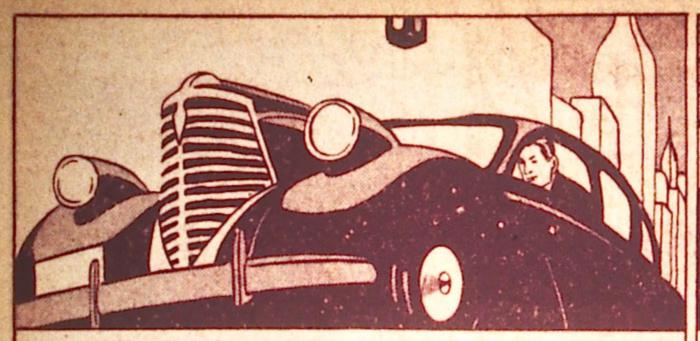


MALONE, RUSHING TO THE WINDOW, NOTES THE LICENSE NUMBER OF A CAR PULLING AWAY FROM THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE



DISTRICT ATTORNEY MALONE LOSES NO TIME . HE RACES FOR HIS CAR WHICH HAS A RADIO INSTALLED IN THE DASHBOARD DISTRICT ATTORNEY MALONE CALLING DISTRICT ATTORNEY MALONE SEDAM. BEARING LICENSE NUMBER X-1515 LOCATED IN BROOKLYN. GO TO WEST 190 15 STREET NEAR 1715 AVENUE.





WITH SIREN SHRILLING, HE RACES



TWENTY MINUTES LATER HE LOCATES THE QUARRY

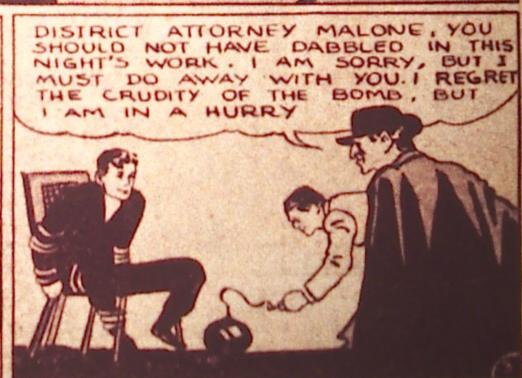


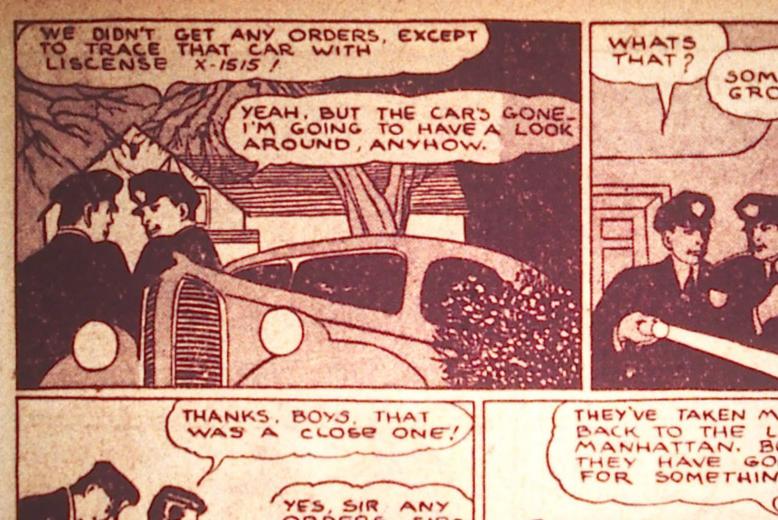




























MALONE SEES THE FRENCH DOORS



POURS DEADLY GUN A . MACHINE NEXT HOUSE HAIL FROM THE





OFFICER DUGAN ENTERS









BEHIND THE KILLER





DUGAN FIRES AND ONE MAN FALLS



OFFICER DUGAN FALLS WOUNDED , MALONE FIRES AS ...

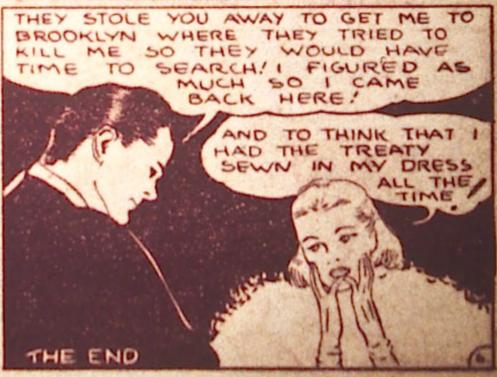


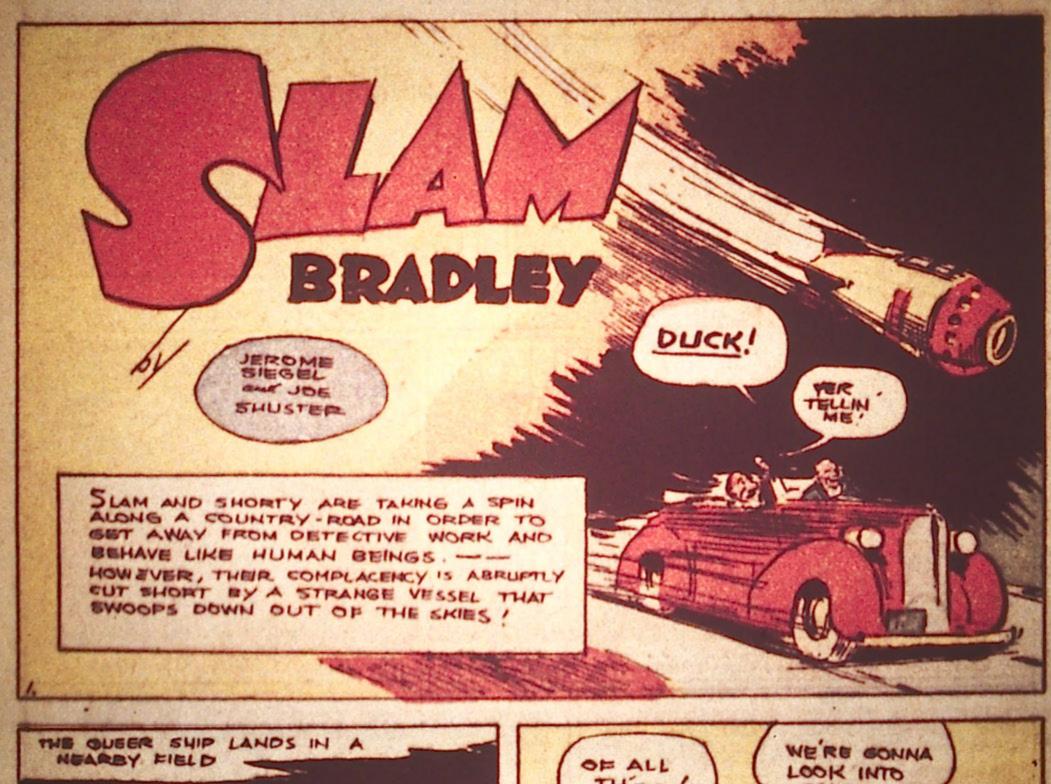
MALONE GETS HIS MAN ...

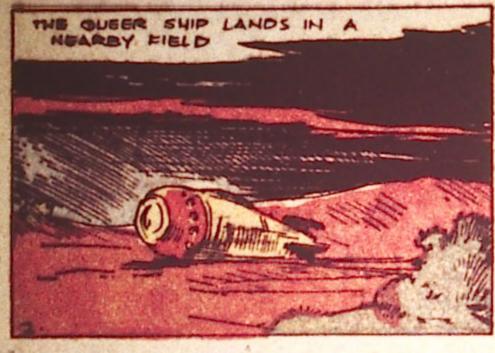






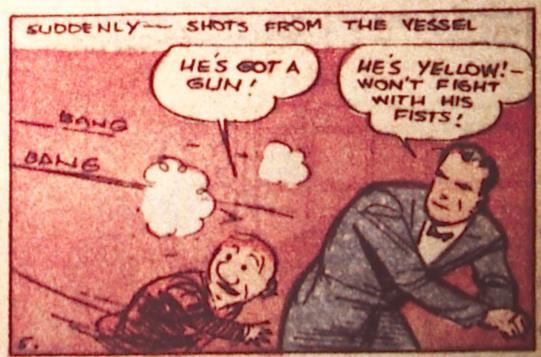














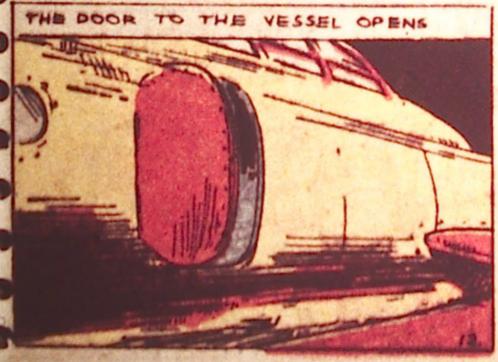




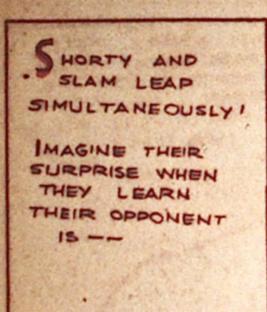














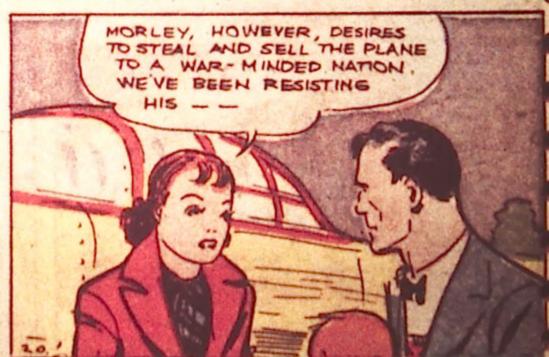






















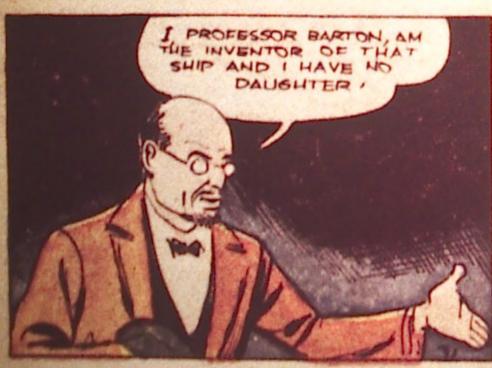


























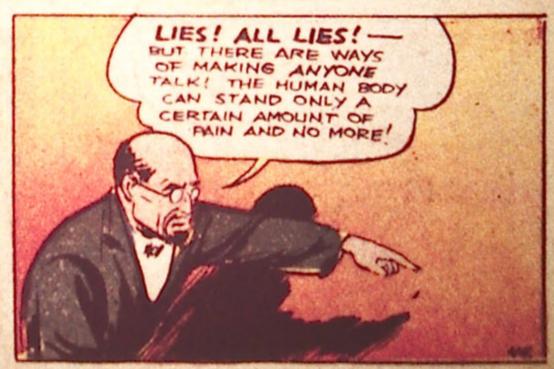




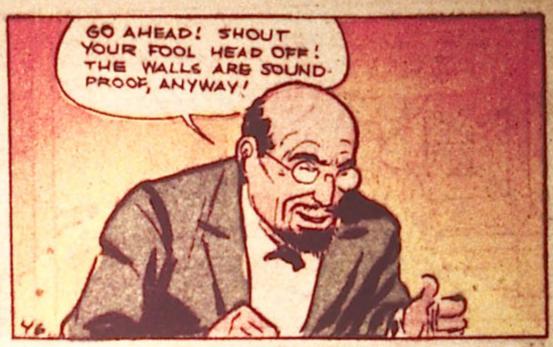


































AS BARTON

COMPREHENDS

THAT SLAM AND
SHORTY ARE NOT'
HENCHMEN OF
MORLEY, HE
ACTS



































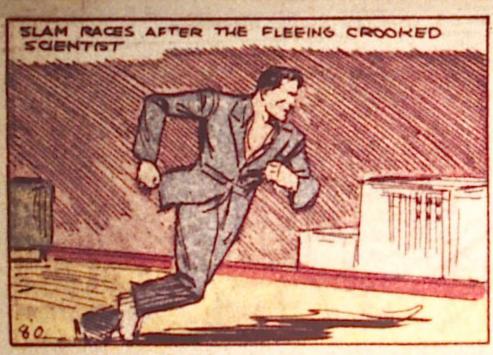


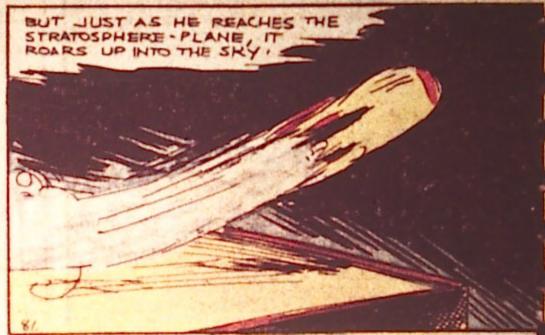
















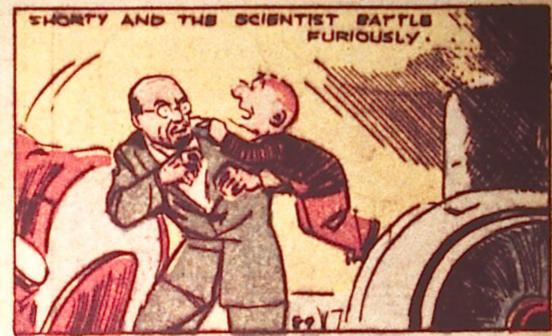


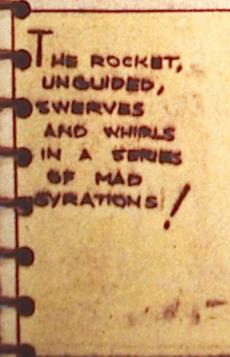




















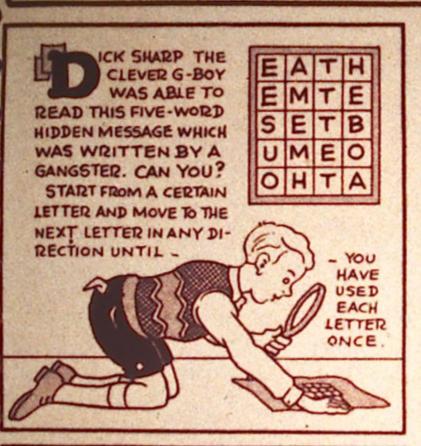


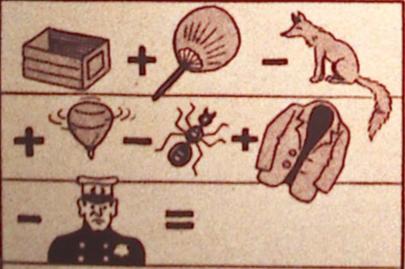






## DETECTIVE PUZZLES





TRY TO NAME THE ABOVE PICTURES AND
THEN ADD OR SUBTRACT THE LETTERS
IN THE NAMES AS INDICATED BY THE PLUS AND
MINUS SIGNS BETWEEN THE OBJECTS. THE
REMAINING LETTERS WILL SPELL THE NAME
OF SOMETHING THAT WILL FLOAT IN WATER.



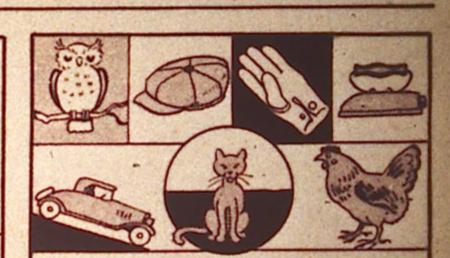
AND A SQUIRREL BUT HE CAN'T FIND THEM. SUPPOSE YOU PLAY DETECTIVE AND TRY TO LOCATE THEM. WE'LL GIVE YOU A CLEW... THEY'RE HIDING RIGHT HERE BEFORE YOUR EYES.



GBKZ WKO OBANX: NIB

CHPBX KPG EBTBOY KZB IMGGBP SBPBKNI K OKZIZB
YNHPB MP SKUF HA NIB HOG
ZBG SKZP HP EHBY AKZC
MP IMUFYJMOOB. OKZZX.

ARE YOU A SHREWD DETECTIVE? CAN YOU SOLVE THE ABOVE CRYPTIC MESSAGE FOR DICK SHAW?
WHEN A LETTER IS REPEATED IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME CODE-LETTER THROUGHOUT .... THE FIRST THREE WORDS ARE "GBKZ WKO OBANX" TRANSLATED THEY ARE "DEAR PAL LEFTY." THESE CODE-LETTERS ARE REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE NOTE AND SHOULD HELP YOU SOLVE THE PROBLEM. SPACES AND PUNCTUATIONS ARE RETAINED.



NAMES OF THESE SEVEN
PICTURES AND THEN REARRANGE
THEIR INITIALS TO SPELL THE NAME
OF A LARGE CITY IN THE UNITED
STATES. WHAT IS THE CITY?

